

Notice of Allowability

Applicati n No.

10/702,362

Examiner

Irakli Kiknadze

Applicant(s)

BIJJANI ET AL

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment dated May 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-25 and 28-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

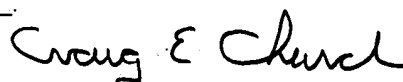
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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Craig E. Church
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Office action dated April 16, 2004 the Amendment has been received May 12, 2004.

The specification has been amended.

Claims 1-4, 26 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5-10, 13, 16-21 and 28-30 have been amended.

Claims 5-25 and 28-32 are currently pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5-25 and 28-32 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 5-7 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method of screening items to detect target object therein, comprising forming a third representation of objects in the item including altering a first representation by changing the estimate of the atomic number of an object based on a second representation of objects as claimed.

Claims 8-17 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method of screening items to detect target objects therein, comprising forming a third representation of objects in the item including altering a representation of an object in a

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first representation based on a second representation indicating that a plurality of overlapping objects are represented as one object in the first representation as claimed.

Claims 18-25 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method of screening items to detect target object therein, comprising forming a third representation of objects in the item including altering the effective atomic number and mass associated with objects contained in a first representation based on density of objects contained in a second representation as claimed.

Claims 28-32 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method of screening items to detect target objects therein, comprising indicating an object based at least in part on a first representation and a second representation, wherein the object is indicated when it has an effective atomic number in a predetermined range and a predetermined proximity to another object that has an effective atomic number indicative of material as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00- 5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Irakli Kiknadze
May 21, 2004

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Craig E Church

Craig E. Church
Primary Examiner